

REMARKS

Claims 12-17, 19, 29-32, 34, and 35 are pending and claims 12-17, 19, 29-32, 34, and 35 stand rejected. By virtue of this response, claims 12 and 29 have been amended, claim 16 is cancelled, and claims 38-42 are added. The amendment to the claims is fully supported at least by the claims as originally presented and no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 12-15, 17, 19, 29-32, and 34-42 are currently under consideration.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

Claims Rejections -35 USC § 103

Claims 12-17, 19, 29-32, 34, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanderheyden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,481) in view of Hentrich (U.S. Patent No. 6,095,445).

Applicants have amended claim 12 to recite that the storage cartridge housing has “only a single access window for allowing a tape drive access to the storage tape wound on the supply reel for reading or writing to the storage tape.” The amended features are clearly disclosed in the present application as filed, e.g., as clearly illustrated in Fig. 2 (and similarly in Figs. 3-6) where the housing 224 is illustrated having only a single access window 214 for streaming the tape from the cartridge for reading and/or writing operations within the tape drive.

The recited features of a cartridge housing having “only a single access window for allowing a tape drive access to the storage tape wound on the supply reel for reading or writing to the storage tape,” are not disclosed or reasonably suggested by the combination of Vanderheyden and Hentrich. In particular, Hentrich clearly shows in Fig. 9 that cartridge 10 includes two access windows for accessing the storage tape 450. Specifically, Fig. 9 clearly discloses access window 25 as well as a second access window (not separately numbered in Fig. 9) for streaming tape 450 from cartridge 10 to the drive takeup spool. Accordingly, Vanderheyden fails to disclose or suggest a housing having only a single access window for accessing the storage tape therein as recited by claim 12.

Additionally, there is no reasonable suggestion to modify the disclosure of Vanderheyden in light of Hentrich to meet the features of claim 1; therefore the combination of Vanderheyden and Hentrich fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that Claim 12 requires there be a guide surface within the tape drive, wherein the storage tape passes adjacent the data transducer along the tape path between at least the first guiding element and the take-up reel. Thus, the data transducer of the drive must be positioned along a tape path within the drive between the first guiding element of the drive and the supply reel. A transducer head for use with cartridge 10 of Fig. 9 clearly accesses tape 450 via tape head receiving region 25. Accordingly, cartridge 10 (of Fig. 9) would not have been used by one of ordinary skill in the art with the tape drive disclosed by Hentrich (or a tape drive meeting the features of claim 12), wherein the tape is guided from the cartridge to a first guiding element of the tape drive, adjacent a data transducer, and to a take-up reel. In contrast to the recited features, Vanderheyden discloses that a tape head is inserted into tape head receiving portion 25 of tape cartridge 10 for reading and writing operations, and where tape cartridge 10 has a tape path 452 for presenting multiple layers of the tape at tape head receiving portion 25. (see Fig. 9; col. 5, lines 1-19; col. 7, line 61 to col. 8, line 9). Thus, guides 501 and 502 of Vanderheyden are configured to present multiple layers at tape head receiving portion 25 for reading and/or writing by tape head 430. Further, there is no need or suggestion to have the tape from cartridge 10 follow a path through a tape drive passing a second data transducer as suggest by the Examiner (for example, if Vanderheyden and Hentrich were combined). Accordingly, the combination fails to disclose or suggest a tape path as recited, e.g., passing adjacent a data transducer between a first guiding element (of the tape drive) to the take-up reel, as the reading and writing operations of the Vanderheyden cartridge 10 occur via tape head receiving portion 25 as clearly described.

Finally, modifying Vanderheyden in light of Hentrich to meet the features of the present claims recited above would inappropriately and impermissibly alter the principle of operation of Vanderheyden. (MPEP § 2143.01, i.e., “The proposed modification cannot change the principle of operation of a reference.”) In this instance, Vanderheyden clearly describes the principle of operation thereof as presenting two or more levels or layers of tape at the tape head receiving

portion 25 for access by tape head 430. (Vanderheyden, Col. 3, lines 2-4.) Accordingly, modifying the cartridge of Vanderheyden for use with the tape drive of Hentrich to meet the presently recited features would alter the principle of operation of Vanderheyden. For example, the tape path would stream through the drive of Hentrich and past a transducer head, thereby altering the principle of operation of Vanderheyden (i.e., presenting multiple layers at the tape head receiving portion 25 as described throughout the reference).

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 2-15, 17, 19, 29-32, 34, and 35 allowed.

New Claims

New claims 38-42 have been added and are fully supported by the application as filed, e.g., at least by the claims as originally presented and Fig. 2. Applicants submit that the new claims are allowable over the combination of Vanderheyden and Hentrich. In particular, claim 38 recites that the storage cartridge housing has “only a single guide surface disposed within the storage cartridge housing, wherein the guide surface is positioned within the storage cartridge housing to guide the storage tape away from the supply reel and then back to reengage tape of the supply reel before extending to the access window.” Vanderheyden clearly discloses at least two guide surfaces 501 and 502 within cartridge 10 of Fig. 9 (see also, Figs. 4-7). Accordingly, Applicants submit that new claims 38-42 are allowable over the combination of Vanderheyden and Hentrich for at least these reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 249212022700. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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